

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A paste ~~comprising~~consisting of a metal powder, an etching agent, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid and an organic solvent.
2. (Currently Amended) The paste according to claim ~~1~~18, ~~further~~ comprising a diluent.
3. (Previously Presented) The paste according to claim 2 wherein the diluent is butylcarbitol.
4. (Previously Presented) The paste according to Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders.
5. (Previously Presented) The paste according to Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has etching activity for antireflection layers of solar cells.
6. (Previously Presented) The paste according to Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers and/or nitride layers of Si.
7. (Currently Amended) The paste according to Claim ~~1~~18, wherein the etching agent is NH_4HF_2 or NH_4F .
8. (Currently Amended) The paste according to Claim 1, wherein the metal powder is one or more powder selected from the group consisting of Ag-coated Ni powder, Cu powder, Ag powder, Au powder and Pd powder.

9. (Currently Amended) The paste according to Claim ~~4~~18, wherein the binder contains a thermosetting resin.
10. (Previously Presented) The paste according to claim 9, wherein the thermosetting resin is an epoxy resin and/or phenol resin.
11. (Currently Amended) The paste according to Claim ~~4~~18, wherein the organic solvent is polyhydric alcohol or its mixture.
12. (Previously Presented) The paste according to claim 11, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin and/or ethylene glycol.
13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the solar cell is fabricated by coating and baking the paste according to claim ~~4~~18~~comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching activity for antireflection layers, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid and an organic solvent,~~ on the antireflection layer in a desired electrode shape.
14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An electric circuit formed by coating and baking the paste according to claim ~~18~~1~~comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid and an organic solvent,~~ on a substrate in a desired pattern.
15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the method comprises coating and baking the paste according to claim ~~18~~1~~comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching~~

activity for antireflection layers, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid and an organic solvent, on the antireflection layer in a desired electrode shape.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of forming electric circuits, which comprises coating and baking the paste according to claim ~~18~~¹ comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid and an organic solvent, on a substrate in a desired pattern.

17. (Canceled) .

18. (Currently Amended) A functional paste comprising 60-99 wt% of a metal powder, $0_{\pm}1 - 20$ wt.% of an etching agent, $0_{\pm}1 - 30$ wt.% of a binder and $0_{\pm}1 - 30$ wt.% of an organic solvent, and $0_{\pm}1 - 5_{\pm}0$ wt.% unsaturated fatty acid,

wherein the metal powder is one or more of Ag-coated Ni powder, Cu powder, Ag powder, Au powder, or Pd powder, and

wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers on the surfaces of metal powders, or has etching activity for antireflection layers of solar cells, or has removal activity of oxidation layers and/or silicon nitride layers.

19. (Previously Presented) A functional paste according to claim 17, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid is oleic acid or linoleic acid.

20. (New) A paste consisting of a metal powder, an etching agent, a binder, an unsaturated fatty acid, an organic solvent and a diluent.